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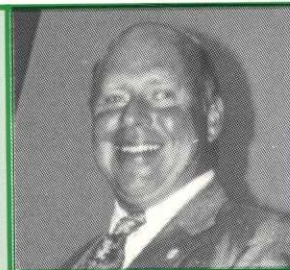
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dick DeSplinter Dies After Courageous Bout With Cancer



The MGCSA extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Dick DeSplinter, who recently passed away after a courageous bout with cancer. A Class A member at New Hope Village Golf Course, Dick was President of this Association in 1980 and will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.

* * * *

At our most recent Board meeting, we examined our new financial forecast for the coming year and tabled discussion until the next meeting. Projections of a large profit never materialized as expenses kept mounting. We are currently forecasting a break-even budget for this upcoming year and fear a small dues increase or lessened member services may be inevitable. We'll keep you informed of the situation.

* * * *

Concerns have been raised about our ever-increasing commitment to scholarship fund-raising. In an already crowded field, hampered by economic times, should we support and encourage further career competition for limited job opportunities? Is an oversupply of talented individuals chasing too few jobs already?

Golf and golf course management have certainly undergone a surge of popularity, which has been tempered by hard economic times. As financing for golf course projects loosens, more job opportunities with better compensation should be available for all. Scholarship recipients are often the brightest, dedicated students in our field. I would hate to deny a deserving student the opportunity to succeed because of financial problems.

* * * *

Good luck to Jim Nicol and his staff during the upcoming Burnet Senior Classic at Bunker Hills. This event is the first of many major events being hosted by member clubs this year.

* * * *

A new course on stress management is being offered by GCSAA this year. Now that summer help is on the way, take some MGCSA stress management and attend our upcoming meeting at the Lafayette Club. The rest and relaxation will be most welcome.

—Greg Hubbard, CGCS
President



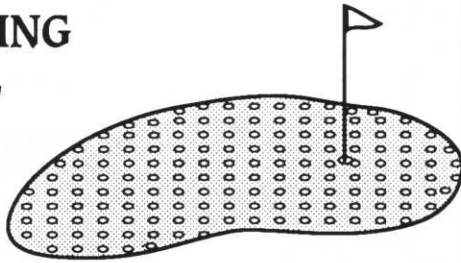
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A (W)HOLE IN ONE

One-stop shopping for golf course materials

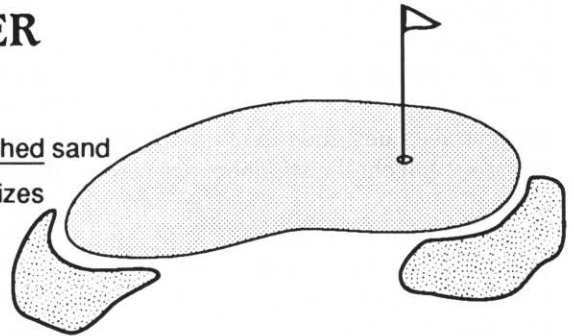
TOPDRESSING MATERIAL

- 80/20, 70/30, or mix to order
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 - Product blended then rescreened through 3mm screen to assure clean mix
- All specs available upon request*

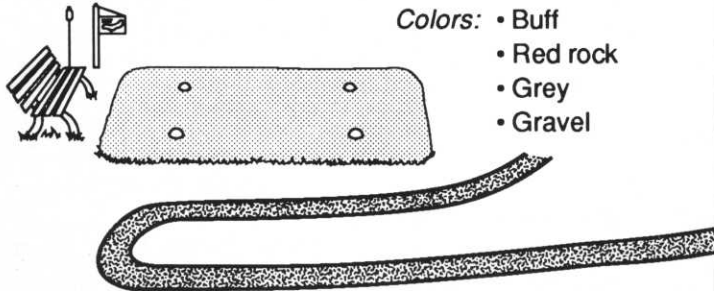


BUNKER SAND

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- 2 particle sizes to choose from



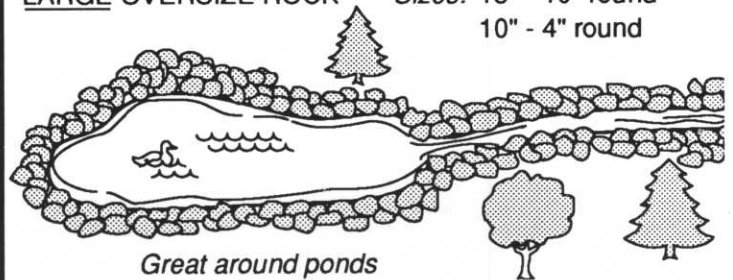
CARTPATH AGGREGATE



- Colors:
- Buff
 - Red rock
 - Grey
 - Gravel

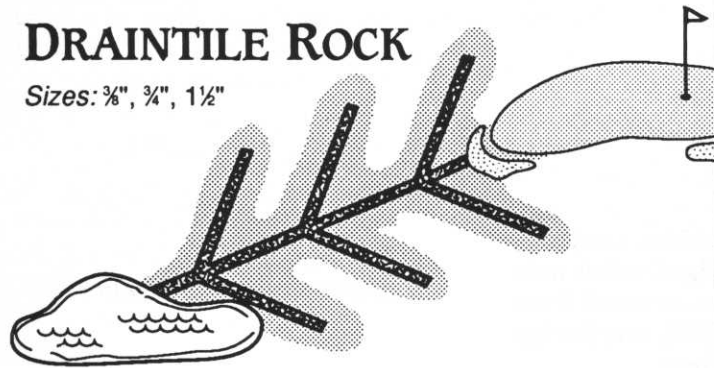
RIP RAP

- LARGE OVERSIZE ROCK Sizes: 18" - 10" round
10" - 4" round



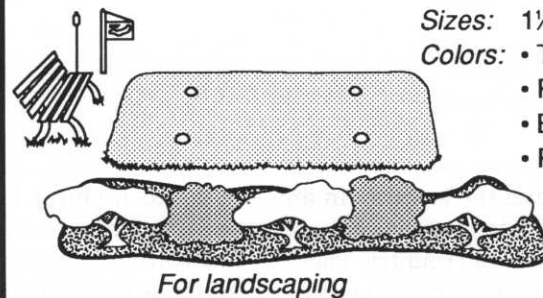
DRAINTILE ROCK

Sizes: 3/8", 3/4", 1 1/2"

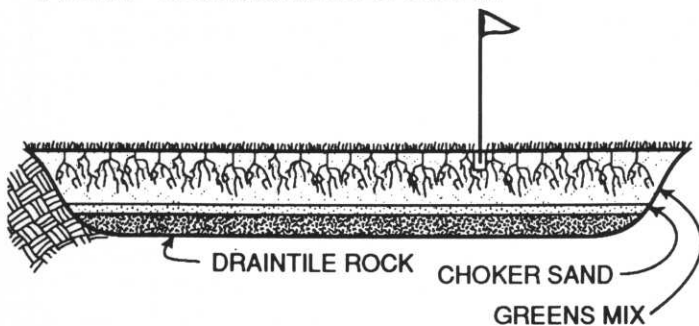


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Tartan Park Blues

By Linda K. Janilla

Any visitor to Tartan Park, whether it be for golf, tennis, picnic or just a walk about, will notice that the park planners and maintenance people have paid great attention to the needs of the wildlife in the area. Ponds, prairies, landscaping, woodlands have not just been designed to make an interesting golf challenge. There are people in the background who have worked very hard to develop a place of enjoyment for visitors and, at the same time worked hand-in-hand with nature to encourage wildlife. We see the results — ducks, geese, songbirds, deer and even loons, and more. You can also see the “Tartan Park Blues” — no, not a new jazz group — the Eastern Bluebird!

Ten years ago, you probably would not have seen this songbird here. In fact, counters during a bird census were lucky to count 50 in the entire state of Minnesota! However, at one time the Bluebird was said to be as common as robins! The Bluebird is the same family as the robin — a bit smaller with a brilliant blue back and rust-colored breast. Several factors affected the Bluebird population. Mankind has an obsessive desire to neaten everything — and cut down dead trees that provided homesites for the Bluebird. They are cavity nesters that make use of old woodpecker holes. Man also introduced the House (English) Sparrow and the starling in an attempt to populate his new country with the birds of his old country. These birds, being non-native, had no natural enemies and their numbers soared. They are also cavity nesters and, being more aggressive, soon usurped available nest sites. Concerned people have formed groups to try to rectify this situation. The Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota has been educating people and helping start Bluebird “trails” for over 10 years.

I became involved in the Bluebird Recovery Program in 1984. In 1986, I approached 3M's Tartan Park management and maintenance people. Armed with books and sample bird-

houses, I sought permission to start a bluebird trail. Six birdhouses were placed in the spring of 1986 and nine baby bluebirds were fledged (fly out of birdhouse at 17-21 days old). In 1987, the birdhouse count was increased to 18 and a total of 15 bluebirds fledged. Other birds use the house, and it was discovered that competition from tree swallows was decreasing the success of bluebirds. A technique called pairing was tried at Tartan Park. The birdhouses are erected in pairs 15 feet apart. This allows each bird to have a house and not allow the tree swallow to overtake the entire trail. This was successful, and in the season of 1988 the bluebird fledging numbered 41 with no increase in houses. There would have been even more bluebird babies in 1988, but raccoons destroyed many eggs and young in the nest. It was the year of the drought, and raccoons did not have their normal supply of food. They quickly discovered a free lunch and climbed the birdhouse poles to feast. The drought continued and 1989 had raccoon predation limiting the bluebird success to 38 fledged. A possible solution to the raccoon problem is to install inverted metal cones on the posts. Joe Moris, Tartan Parks golf course superintendent, came to the rescue and soon the cones were in place. 1990 yielded 64 baby bluebirds. 1991 success was 50 birds fledged — but note that two houses were removed from the trail. Last year, 1992, was the top so far with 80 fledglings.

Setting up a bluebird trail is more than putting up birdhouses. Maintaining the trail is necessary. Checks are made about weekly. A check would consist of counting eggs/babies, noting other bird species using boxes, evicting the unprotected species (house sparrows, starlings, mice, wasps), dusting for blowfly larvae that feed by sucking blood from the nesting birds, noting and combatting predator problems — including man! etc.

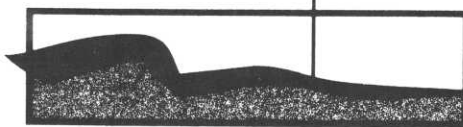
This spring my friends at park maintenance have again kindly given needed assistance. Twenty-eight more posts have been installed and are waiting for houses that are being readied in my garage. We can look forward to a good year! My heartfelt thanks goes to Joe Moris and his crew for all their help and support. Thanks to Curt for his post pounding and the Pro Shop for use of golf carts. And a big thanks to park management for its initial permission.

So, welcome to Tartan Park! Keep your eyes open for those oddly shaped bird houses and watch out for me and my flying golf cart. Most of all, be ready to be welcomed with a sweet song by our Tartan Park Blues!

For further information:

Bluebird Recovery Program
Audobon Chapter
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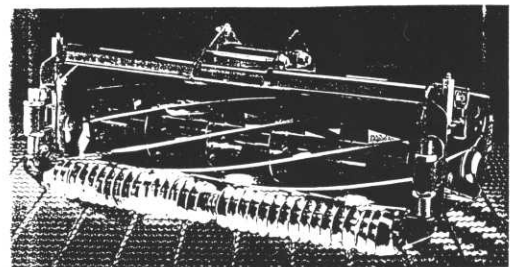
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Patty Knaggs Brings a Woman's Touch to Hazeltine

By GERRY FINN

Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

Patty Knaggs has been living dreams all of her life. But, this time the dream is too good to be true.

"I'm not suggesting this is the final stop in my career," Patty said during a break from her duties as golf course superintendent at the Hazeltine National Golf Club. "But as far as accomplishing big goals and being able to apply my skills in ultimate surroundings, I don't know if anything could top this."

Hazeltine, of course, is considered one of the true gems in the constellation of championship golf courses. It was the controversial host to the 1970 U.S. Open and was the site of the same competition two years ago after a revampment movement headed by its original architect, Robert Trent Jones, and his colleague son, Rees Jones.

"I'm familiar with the Open history of Hazeltine,"

Knaggs remarked. "The course was exposed to a lot of criticism the first time around. But, likewise, it received all kinds of accolades when the 1991 Open was played here. Being part of an Open venue, that's what my professional excitement's all about. This is what I've always wanted."

Hazeltine—located in Chaska, Minnesota—is Patty's second venture into the world of the head golf course superintendent. She landed the position last spring after two years of running the show at another landmark layout, the Westchester Country Club in New York. Before that she was "our Patty."

In fact, Patty's experience as first assistant to Bill Spence at The Country Club convinced her that she had made the right decision when she turned away from a potential law career to try her hand in the golf course superintendent's profession. Those days at The Country Club are unforgettable.

Their highlight was Patty's involvement in the priming of the venerable layout for the 1988 U.S. Open. She was very instrumental in every stage of planning for and carrying out the programs that went into the maintenance phase of the USGA's premier event.

Knaggs was Spence's assistant for four years before she became such an integral part of the operation she actually handled the head superintendent's day-to-day responsibilities while Bill concentrated on an Open agenda.

"That was the opportunity of a lifetime for me," Patty recalled her input into both the Open and overall scene in Brookline. "Being involved in such a prestigious event was a source of personal delight. Then, working with such an outstanding member of the profession (Spence) gave me a career outlook of practically unlimited promise. I can't measure how much my years at The Country Club contributed to my advancement in the field."

Patty's TCC years, in fact, turned into a risky commitment since she had opportunities to branch out onto her own as a head superintendent in the middle of her Brookline stay.

"I wanted to remain there through the Open even if it meant putting a hold on my aspirations to have my own job," Patty told. "When everything's considered, that commitment proved to be the turning point in my career."

New England had no small part in that career's beginning, either, since it was another GCSANE stalwart who got the whole thing started.

"That's right," Patty said. "After I had decided to put my political science degree (Syracuse University) in mothballs and see if I could make it as a superintendent, Brian Cowan (Eastward Ho) gave me a big break.

"I had gone through a string of 'no opening' responses from a lot of clubs when Brian hired me. Not only did he give me my first job, he pointed me to the turf school at Stockbridge where Dr. (Joe) Troll became one of my biggest supporters. He and Brian were a big help." The learning experience took over Patty's schedule after that. There were some lean years, some encouraging ones and, eventually, the chance to grow with the profession evolved in her association with Spence at TCC.

The Hazeltine job has sprung from those green years in New England and subsequent stopping-off place at Westchester.

"This (Hazeltine) is just about the ideal course for all superintendents to practice their expertise," Patty explained. "Hazeltine is strictly for golfers, administered by golfers. There are no tennis courts, no swimming pool. Members come here to play golf, period. Socializing is secondary. What's even better for me is that I like the arrangement just as much as the members."

Naturally, the tradition that's so much a part of TCC drips over to Hazeltine which apparently is determined to find its way onto the list of revered courses hosting USGA events. In keeping with that approach, its members demand championship conditions at all times. Which is the way Patty likes it.

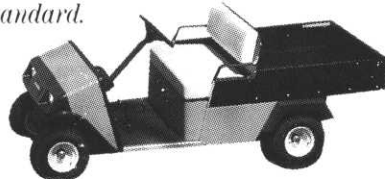
"That situation beefs up the challenge," Patty said. "But everything here is in the superintendent's favor. The golf course comes first, which means members put their money where their mouths are at budget time. Other than some unsuspecting catastrophe rearing its head, I don't see why I can't deliver a championship course from start to finish of every golf season." Patty Knaggs, then, has found her niche.



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Is the USGA “Two-Faced” When It Comes to Course Maintenance?

By JAMES F. MOORE, Director
USGA Green Section
Mid-Continent Region

For those of you who do not frequent Turfbyte (an electronic bulletin board for golf course superintendents lucky enough to have PCs equipped with modems), there has been a fair amount of lively discussion lately concerning the condition of Pebble Beach's greens during the U.S. Open Championship. Since Turfbyte regulars are predominantly superintendents, the discussion centered around the turf conditions and the obvious stress on the greens during the last few days of the Championship. The USGA was the target of some pretty stinging criticism, the most serious of which in my mind was the feeling that we (the USGA) are “two-faced” in our recommendations to clubs across the country. The argument was basically, how can the Green Section agronomists visit clubs and emphasize the need to avoid excessively low mowing to produce extremely fast greens, and then hold the Open Championship on television with exactly those conditions on display for the whole world to see?

Having been a superintendent at one time and having worked at a club where green speed was a frequent issue, I fully understand the argument these guys are making. It is a pain when a championship the caliber of an Open is on TV and the low handicappers in your club all decide they ought to putt on greens just as fast. (Actually, The Masters was always my biggest headache since it took place at a time of the year my course was trying to recover from whatever winter damage had been suffered. I didn't even know the superintendent at Augusta National but I sure hated the guy who prepared a course that was “perfect” and on TV while the greenest thing on my course was the

Poa annua that I missed with the spray rig that winter.) It is a difficult situation when players at the local club think they ought to be playing on the same conditions they see on TV.

Generally, the superintendents on Turfbyte agreed that efforts should be made to let non-superintendents know more about what goes on behind the scenes and why, what is seen on TV, is not “the real world.” I happen to agree with them and feel at least three major issues deserve discussion in this regard.

ISSUE #1

“Why does the USGA make the course so hard, the greens so fast, the rough so high? Why are they trying to embarrass the players?”

Chances are you've heard these questions although they were probably expressed more as accusations.

I can't say I have been around a lot of championships in my eight years in the USGA. However, I have been to a few and know many of the people responsible for conducting the events. My observations are that the single most important goal of a USGA championship has in every case been to identify the best player. Do people really believe there are secret meetings behind USGA doors where staffers decide to embarrass somebody? I think it is more possible that the USGA feels more strongly than others that par is still a great round of golf.

One of the best analogies (I love analogies) I have heard concerning the Open setup is comparing this national golf championship to the country's auto racing championship—the Indianapolis 500. Can you imagine a 500 where there was a speed limit of

55 mph? Would you be able to find out who the best driver was under such limitations?

ISSUE #2

Non-championship golfers think they want championship conditions.

It is understandable that players want the same conditions they see on TV. After all, they emulate every other aspect of the best players including their clubs, shoes, swing and style of shirt. However, there are some very large assumptions made when this emulation is carried on to course setup. Average and even above average players simply do not have the skills of those they see on TV.

Again, analogies are useful in this discussion. These players might point out that when they play tennis, or football, or bowl, or even shoot pool, they are playing on the same conditions as the professionals in those sports, so why not golf? My rationale is that these are what I like to call “linear” sports. The playing “fields” are based on rigid, angular lines that remain constant throughout the game, from day to day, from place to place. These are two dimensional sports—one being physical skill and the other mental. The playing “fields” have only a limited influence on the player's success or failure.

In my eyes golf is a “non-linear”, three-dimensional game. Rigid, angular lines have no place in golf. Contoured fairways, flowing bunkers and undulated greens are viewed by virtually all golfers as more attractive and desirable than fairways that look like runways or hotdogs, perfectly round bunkers and flat greens. Most importantly, in addition to the men-

(Continued on Page 28)

1993

MGCSA Schedule

Lafayette Club	June 14
Research Turf Tourney	June 18
White Bear Yacht Club	July 19
The Links at Northfork	August 9
Stodola Tourney @ Hillcrest Country Club (morning & afternoon)	Sept. 13
Eau Claire Country Club	Oct. 11
Annual Conference @ Minneapolis Convention Center	Nov. 17, 18 & 19

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